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## **Failed Appeal Returns Ex-Cop to Court**

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Port Orchard

More than two years after a friend accused him of abusing his then-wife, a former Bremerton police officer is back in Kitsap County Superior Court to face charges stemming from the allegations.

William Boswell Cook IV, 39, was in court last week for a preliminary hearing, following a denial of a petition he made to the state's Court of Appeals.

Cook faces allegations from prosecutors that he committed second-degree assault from an incident in 1997. But he wasn't charged until 2003.

Under the law, felonies must be charged no later than three years after the time they were alleged to have occurred. But Cook, who was a police officer at the time of the offense, is held to a special statute as a "public servant" — and under it, he may be charged up to 10 years after the alleged offense.

Cook's argument before the appeals court was that although officers are held to that "10-year" statute while on the job, they aren't held to such a statute while off-duty.

Cook, hired a Poulsbo police officer in 1989, moved to the Bremerton Police Department in 1996.

Charges against Cook didn't surface until 2003, when Greg Wilson, a former Poulsbo police officer, went to Poulsbo Police Chief Jeff Doran with allegations that Cook was abusing his then-wife.

Wilson and Cook had once been friends, but the pair had a falling-out when a woman that Wilson had been dating started a relationship with Cook, according to court documents.

Numerous incidents of abuse by Cook against his ex-wife were reported between 1986 and 2002. Prosecutors have charged Cook with second-degree assault occurring sometime during 1997. He is accused of punching his ex-wife in the face, grabbing her by the throat and then lifting her up until she couldn't breathe.

Cook is also charged with fourth-degree assault and third-degree malicious mischief for incidents in October 2002. The trial has been set for Feb. 5.

His attorney, Lance Hester, said Cook has maintained his innocence throughout the entire process.